

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably the fastener is a metal wall tie, preferably of the helical type made from twisted profiled wire. Although the fasteners could be in the form of a simple flat twisted strip, more preferably they are in the form of twisted wire having a more complicated cross-sectional profile in the form of a cross or a star ("twisted profiled wire"), so that the tie has a well-defined longitudinally extending core (for transmitting tensile forces) and radiating fins which have been twisted into a helical structure (for mechanical engagement with the masonry). These wall ties can be driven into a masonry back-up wall using a suitable percussion tool, the wall ties being allowed to rotate as the fins cut a helical path into the masonry to form a mechanical interlock with the masonry. Such a wall tie system is available through Helifix Ltd and marketed under the name [["DryFix"]] "DRYFIX"®. For other installation systems it may be more preferable to install the wall tie or other fastener by first drilling a pilot hole and then securing the tie to the back-up wall using an adhesive, such as a resin or cement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

However, other forms of ~~fastener~~ fasteners are also envisaged as being suitable for this system although are not as preferred as the wall ties discussed above because of component costs and ease of installation. The fastener may take the form of an expandable anchor having a thread provided on one end for engagement with the connector. Other arrangements for securing the fastener to the back-up wall are also envisaged and the arrangements described herein are in no way intended to be exhaustive.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

By "closely fitting", it is intended that the sleeve should have an internal diameter of not more than one or two millimeters greater than the maximum external diameter of the wall tie, preferably less than one ~~millimeters~~ millimeter and more preferably less than half a millimeter, in order to reduce the amount of lateral end play between the connector and the wall tie, i.e., there should be just sufficient gap to provide clearance for ease of fitting. In some preferred embodiments it may be necessary to tap the connector on to the wall tie with a hammer or other similar device. The connector is of a length which preferably can receive a portion of the wall tie equivalent in length to more than three times the maximum external diameter of the wall tie, more preferably more than five times the diameter, again in order to avoid lateral play between the end of the wall tie and the sleeve connector.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 9 shows the connector of Figure 3 provided with a second set of indents; ~~and~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 10 illustrates the positioning of a large connector in a bed joint; and [[.]]

Please add the following new paragraph at the end of page 14 as follows:

Figure 11 illustrates a second embodiment of a preferred system installed in the construction of a new building.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

In another preferred embodiment, known wall ties (e.g., ~~DryFix~~ DRYFIX® ties, which are available through Helifix Ltd.) are installed through the "T" joints in the outer wythe mortar 24 and into the back-up wall 22. Connectors 10 are secured over the tie ends and a stainless steel or galvanised plain 9 SWG wire 22 (wire of diameter 3.6 mm) is threaded through the connectors 10 along the cut-out mortar joint. Where extra performance is desired, a wire with helical fins such as Helibar® 45 (which is available through Helifix Ltd. and has a maximum external diameter of 4.5 mm and a core diameter of about 3.1 mm) can be used to provide enhanced strength. The wire 22 is grouted in place with an injectable cementitious, no-shrink grout, such as ~~Helibond MM2~~ HELIBOND® MM2 (a trade mark of and available from Helifix Ltd). The joint is then finished with matching tuck-pointing to leave the masonry visually unimpaired.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

1. select the points where 8 mm ~~DryFix~~ DRYFIX® ties 1 are to be installed. At the 'T' junction of the mortar bed and vertical joints reduces damage to the brickwork;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21 line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

6. remove all dust and mortar from the slot and thoroughly flush with clean, fresh water. (The bricks should be left damp or primed with a water-based primer such as, for example, Helifix HELIFIX® WB Primer);

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

7. using the insertion tool, drive the ~~DryFix~~ DRYFIX® ties into the back-up substrate 22, leaving the tie end near the centre of the outer wythe brick;

Please add the following new paragraph on page 21, after line 7:

FIG. 11 shows an embodiment of the present invention like that in **FIG. 1**, where like reference characters are used to denote like elements of the invention. Further to the embodiment of **FIG. 1**, the embodiment shown in **FIG. 11** shows a second reinforcement wire **20'** positioned generally parallel to reinforcement wire **20** and engaged with connector **10** as previously described by passing through connector **10** in an additional hole (see, e.g., **FIG. 9**). A second length of second reinforcement wire **20''** may be provided in an overlapping fashion with that of the first length of second reinforcement wire **20'** at overlap **Z**, which may be a distance of about 150 mm. Any suitable overlap is contemplated by the invention.